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HERZFELDER ANNOUNCES GRANTS IN GLOUCESTER

Secretary of Environmental Affairs Ellen Roy Herzfelder announced today the award of \$30,446 in grants to projects in Gloucester to combat so-called Non Point Source (NPS) water pollution. NPS pollution impacts water quality when rainfall or snowmelt moves over and through the ground. Runoff picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, depositing them into coastal waters, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and underground sources of drinking water.

"The grants that we are awarding today serve as important local assistance but they also work to leverage contributions from others—including our federal and private partners," said Secretary Herzfelder.

The three grants are from three different sources but each targets NPS pollution in Gloucester:

- \$15,000 to the city of Gloucester from the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program, which is administered by the state's Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) will help in the assessment of bacterial contamination in the Good Harbor Beach Area;
- \$5,446 to Massachusetts Audubon Society from the Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP) will assist students in the monitoring of Mill Pond;
- \$10,000 to Massachusetts Audubon Society from the Gulf of Maine to develop an Action Plan for the Restoration of Little River in Gloucester.

Senator Bruce Tarr, noted, "I am pleased that the Commonwealth continues to prioritize the enhancement of our coastal waters. Specifically, these three grants by providing assessment, monitoring and restoration of important ecological areas will greatly benefit Gloucester, and the Cape Ann area at-large. In addition, I am particularly pleased that the grant for continued monitoring of Mill Pond will partner the Massachusetts Audubon Society with the O'Maley Middle School in Gloucester. Providing the middle school students with an exciting opportunity to participate and learn from the ongoing restoration."

Representative Anthony Verga added, “In such a fragile environment that we live in, these grants that aid in the saving and preserving of the environment are of vital importance.”

Grants issued under the federally funded Coastal NPS Grant Program support the goal of the Massachusetts Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, which is to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution—the number one problem facing coastal waters. NPS pollutants include excess fertilizers, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff, sediment from improperly managed construction sites, salt from irrigation practices, and bacteria and nutrient loads from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems. This year, 10 Coastal NPS Grants will be awarded, totaling approximately \$215,000.

The WRP supports voluntary, pro-active restoration of degraded or former wetlands. To fulfill its mission, the Wetlands Restoration Program works with a broad network of partners, pursuing restoration activities in several core program areas: restoration planning, project implementation and construction, education and outreach, and monitoring. Seven WRP Grants will be awarded this year totaling \$100,000. Information on other grant recipients will be presented at scheduled regional events.

For the past several years, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) has awarded grants to non-governmental organizations throughout the Gulf of Maine watershed. The purpose of the grants is to further the goals of the council while assisting worthy applicants with programs benefiting the Gulf of Maine region. The three goals of the Action Plan are to: 1) Protect and Restore Coastal and Marine Habitats; 2) Protect Human Health and Ecosystem Integrity; and 3) Encourage Sustainable Maritime Activities. Funding is made available through a U.S. Congressional appropriation administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The Gulf of Maine Council's Action Plan grant will go a long way in helping to restore the Little River as a viable alewife habitat," said CZM Acting Director Susan Snow-Cotter. "Further, all of the grants presented here today support the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management's goals to preserve and protect coastal waters and critical habitats."

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